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# Merriam- Webster's Collegiate® Dictionary

TENTH EDITION

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## 18a Explanatory Notes

carry sick out . . . n . . . chiefly Scot
far-ridin . . . n . . . chiefly Austral
Indie-han . . . n . . . chiefly S Afric
spal-peen . . . n . . . chiefly Irish
bore-me . . . n . . . 2 a Brit colloq for a person who is <i>bores</i> or <i>bore</i>
book off w . . . Canad
dis-kum . . . adj . . . Austral & NewZeal
parrot . . . n . . . Scot & Irish

The label *dial* for "dialect" indicates that the pattern of use of a word or sense is too complex for summary labeling; it usually includes several regional varieties of American English or of American and British English:

cal-a-choose . . . n . . . dial

The label *dial Brit* indicates currency in several dialects of the Commonwealth; *dial Eng* indicates currency in one or more provincial dialects of England:

bogole . . . n . . . dial Brit; *boogle* . . . n . . . dial Eng

The stylistic label *slang* is used with words or senses that are especially appropriate in contexts of extreme informality, that usually have a currency not limited to a particular region or area of interest, and that are composed typically of shortened or altered forms or extravagant or facetious figures of speech:

barb . . . n . . . slang : *substitute* . . . n . . . slang : *sub* . . . n . . . slang : *slimy* . . . n . . . slang : *inside information* : *hops* . . . n . . . slang

male squeeze . . . n . . . slang : one's principal romantic partner

There is no satisfactory objective test for slang, especially, with reference to a word out of context. No word, in fact, is invariably slang, and many standard words can be given slang applications.

The stylistic label *horseshit* for "nonstandard" is used for a few words or senses that are disapproved by many but that have some currency in reputable contexts:

learn . . . v . . . 2 a *horseshit* v

ir-egardless . . . adv . . . *nonstand*

The stylistic label *substand* for "substandard" is used for those words or senses that conform to a widespread pattern of usage that differs in choice of word or form from that of the prestige group of the community:

is . . . pres 3d sing of is; *dia* pres 1st & 2nd sing of is; *stand* pres pl of be

A subject label or guide phrase is sometimes used to indicate the specific application of a word or sense:

knockabout . . . adj . . . 3 of a sailing vessel

break n . . . 13 . . . d mining

zap adj . . . 3 of a quark

In general, however, subject orientation is given in the definition:

Dido . . . n . . . a legendary queen of Carthage in Virgil's *Aeneid* who kills herself when Aeneas leaves her

jeed . . . n . . . a springing jump in bullet made from one foot to the other in any direction

## ILLUSTRATIONS OF USAGE

Definitions are sometimes followed by verbal illustrations that show a typical use of the word in context. These illustrations are enclosed in angle brackets, and the word being illustrated is usually replaced by a lightface swung dash. The swung dash stands for the boldface entry word, and it may be followed by an italicized suffix:

key . . . n . . . 3 a . . . <the ~ to a riddle>

way . . . adj . . . 7 . . . <~ a person wanted to go>

plummet v . . . 2 . . . <prices ~ed>

weak . . . adj . . . 4 . . . 3 (2) . . . <history was my ~est subject>

The swung dash is not used when the form of the boldface entry word is changed in substitution, and it is not used for open compounds:

trans . . . adj . . . 8 . . . <in the other series>

turn-off w . . . 4 . . . <turn the states off>

Illustrative quotations are also used to show words in typical contexts:

conflict-ed . . . adj . . . <this unhappy and ~ modern woman>

Omissions in quotations are indicated by suspension points:

illust-ri-ation . . . n . . . <from the values of one's society and family> — S. L. Hafetz

## USAGE NOTES

Definitions are sometimes followed by usage notes that give supplementary information about such matters as idiom, syntactic/semantic relationship, and status. A usage note is introduced by a lightface dash:

very . . . 11 . . . — *usu* used in the phrase *a for cry*

drum . . . n . . . 2 . . . — *usu* used with *out*

so . . . adv . . . 1 . . . — often used as a substitute for a preceding clause

star-za-na-do . . . adj or adv . . . — used as a direction in music

grin-go . . . n . . . — often used disparagingly

plashed . . . adj . . . 1 . . . — sometimes considered vulgar

hail! . . . n . . . — often used as a title

Two or more usage notes are separated by a semicolon:

thee pron . . . 1 . . . that which belongs to thee — used without a following noun as a pronoun equivalent in meaning to the adjective *thy* (esp. in ecclesiastical or literary language and still surviving in the speech of Friends' English, among themselves)

Sometimes a usage note calls attention to one or more terms with the same denotation as the main entry:

water moccasin n . . . 3 a venomous semiaquatic pit viper (Crotalus *durissus*) chiefly of the southeastern U.S. that is closely related to the copperhead — called also *cottonmouth*, *cottonmouth moccasin*, *water snake*, *swamp snake*, *pit viper*, *mosquitofish*

The called-also terms are shown in italic type. If such a term falls alphabetically more than a column away from the main entry, it is entered at its own place with the sole definition being a synonymous cross-reference to the entry where it appears in the usage-note:

cotton-mouth . . . n . . . 1 WATER MOCCASIN

water moccasin n . . . 3 a venomous semiaquatic pit viper (Crotalus *durissus*) chiefly of the southeastern U.S. that is closely related to the copperhead — called also *cottonmouth*, *cottonmouth moccasin*, *water snake*, *swamp snake*, *pit viper*, *mosquitofish*

Sometimes a usage note is used in place of a definition. Some function words (as conjunctions and prepositions) have



1258 **treasonable** • **trek**

**TOR** (13c) 1 : the betrayal of a trust; **TREACHERY**. 2 : the offense of attempting by overt acts to overthrow the government of the state to which the offender owes allegiance or to kill or personally injure the sovereign or the sovereign's family.

**treasonable** *trez-uh-nuh-buh*, *trez-uh-nuh-buh* adj (14c) : relating to, consisting of, or involving treason — **TREASONABLY** *uh-bil-uh-adv*

**treasonable** *trez-uh-nuh-buh*, *trez-uh-nuh-buh* adj (1593) : **TREASONABLE**

**treasurable** *trez-uh-buh-uh-buh*, *trez-uh-buh-uh-buh* adj (1607) : worthy of being treasured; **PRECIOUS**

**treasure** *trez-uh-buh*, *trez-uh-buh* [ME *trez*, fr. OF, fr. L. *thresurum* — more at **TREASURER**] (12c) 1 a : wealth (as money, jewels, or precious metals) stored up or hoarded (buried, ~) (2) : wealth of any kind or in any form: **RICHES** b : a store of money in reserve. 2 : something of great worth or value: also : a person esteemed as rare or precious. 3 : a collection of precious things

**treasure-w** *trez-uh-w*; **treasure-hunting** *uh-hun-ting* (14c) 1 : to collect and store up (something of value) for future use; **HOARD**. 2 : to hold or keep as precious: **CHERISH** **PRIZE** (she treasures those memories)

syn see **APPRECIATE**

**treasure-house** *trez-uh-hous*, *trez-uh-hous* n (15c) 1 : a building where treasure is kept; **TREASURY**. 2 : a place or source, (as a collection) where many things of value can be found

**treas-ur-er** *trez-uh-r*, *trez-uh-r*, *trez-uh-r*, *trez-uh-r* n (14c) 1 : a guardian of a collection of treasures; **CURATOR**. 2 : an officer entrusted with the receipt, care, and disbursement of funds; as, a : a governmental office charged with receiving, keeping, and disbursing public revenues b : the executive financial officer of a club, society, or business corporation — **TREASURER-ship** *uh-ship* n

**treasure trove** *uh-troh*, *uh-troh* n [AF *trez*, fr. L. *trusus*, found treasure] (1523) 1 : treasure that anyone finds; esp: gold or silver in the form of money, plate, or bullion which is found hidden and whose ownership is not known. 2 : a valuable discovery, resource, or collection

**treasury** *trez-uh-ree*, *trez-uh-ree*, *trez-uh-ree* n [ME *trez*, fr. OF, fr. L. *trusor*, treasure] (14c) 1 : a place in which stores of wealth are kept where public revenues are deposited, kept, and disbursed; esp: one kept in such a depository. 2 obs: **TREASURE** 2 cap. n : a governmental department in charge of finances and esp, the collection, management, and expenditure of public revenues. b : the building in which the business of such a governmental department is transacted. 4 cap. : a government security (as a note or bill) issued by the Treasury. 5 : a repository for treasures (as of poems)

**treasury note** n (1890) 1 : a currency note issued by the U.S. Treasury in payment for silver bullion purchased under the Sherman Silver Purchase Act of 1890. 2 : a U.S. government bond iss. with a maturity of not less than one year or more than seven years

**treasury of merits** (1884) : the superabundant satisfaction of Christ for human sins and the excess of merit of the saints which according to Roman Catholic theology is effective for salvation of others and is available for dispensation through indulgences

**treasury stock** n (1903) : issued stock recognized by a corporation and held as an asset

**treas-ut** *trez-uh-t*, *trez-uh-t* [ME *truzen*, fr. OF *truzier*; fr. L. *trutus* — to draw about, handle, deal with, freq. of *trahere* to drag, pull] v (14c) 1 : to discuss terms of accommodation or settlement: **DISCOURSE**. 2 : to deal with a matter, esp. in writing: **DISCOURSE** — *usu. used with of* (a book, ~ing of conservation) 3 : to pay another's expenses (as for a meal or drink) esp. as a compliment or as an expression of regard or friendship

1 a : to deal with in speech or writing: **DISCOURSE** b : to present or represent artistically c : to deal with: **HANDLING** (food is pleasant and ~ with imagination —Cecil Weston) 2 a : to bear oneself toward: **USE** (as a horse crookedly) b : to regard and deal with in a specified manner — *usu. used with of* 3 a : to provide with free food, drink, or entertainment b : to provide with enjoyment, esp. **ENTERTAINMENT** 4 : to care for or deal with medically or surgically (as a disease) 5 : to act upon with some agent, esp. to improve or alter (as a mind) with acid) — **treater** n (1651) 1 : an entertainment given without expense to those invited. 2 : an esp. unexpensed source of joy, delight, or amusement

**treatable** *tre-tuh-buh*, *tre-tuh-buh* adj (14c) : capable of being treated; yielding or responsive to treatment (as a disease) — **treatability** *tre-tuh-buh-til-i-tee* n

**treas-ure** *trez-uh-ree*, *trez-uh-ree* n [ME *trez*, fr. AF *trez*, fr. OF *truzier* to treat] (14c) 1 : a systematic exposition or argument in writing including a methodical discussion of the facts and principles involved and conclusions reached (as in higher education). 2 obs: **ACCOUNT TALE** **treas-ur-er** *trez-uh-r*, *trez-uh-r* n (ca. 1560) 1 : the act or manner of an instance of treating someone or something; **HANDLING**, **MANAGE**. 2 : the techniques or actions customarily applied in a specified situation. 3 : a substance or techniques used in treating. 4 : an experimental condition

**treas-ur-er** *trez-uh-r*, *trez-uh-r* n [ME *trez*, fr. MF *trez*, fr. ML *trac-tor*, fr. L. *trahere*, treatment, fr. *trez* to treat, handle] (14c) 1 : the action of treating and esp. of negotiating. 2 a : an agreement or arrangement made by negotiation: (1) : **PRIVATE TREATY**. (2) : a contract in writing between two or more political authorities (as states or sovereigns) formally signed by representatives duly authorized and use, ratified by the lawmaking authority of the state. b : a document in which such a contract is set down

**treaty port** (1863) : any of numerous ports and inland cities in China, Japan, and Korea formerly open by treaty to foreign commerce

**treble** *treb-uh*, *treb-uh* [ME *treb*, perh. fr. MF, tripl. fr. *treble*, adj] (14c) 1 : the highest voice part in harmonic music; **SOLO** b : one that performs a treble part; also : a member of a family of instruments having the highest range. c : a high-pitched or shrill voice, tone, or sound d : the upper half of the whole vocal or instrumental tonal range — **compo-RAAS** e : the higher portion of the audio frequency range in sound recording and broadcasting 2 : something treble in construction, uses, amount, number, or value

**treble ed** [ME, fr. MF, fr. L *triplus* — more at **TRIPLE**] (14c) 1 : having three parts or lots: **TRIPLIS** b : triple in number or amount 2 : relating to or having the range or part of a treble. b : HIGH-PITCHED, SHRIEK. c : of, relating to, or having the range of treble

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